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LETTER DATED 24 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that on 23 February 1994 the Chief-of-Staff of the Croatian Defense Council (HVO), General Ante Roso, and the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina, General Rasim Delic, signed a peace accord at Zagreb, Croatia.

The key elements of the peace accord include:

(a) A cease-fire between the two armed forces, which will start at noon local time on 25 February 1994;

(b) Positioning of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) forces at key points in order to ensure adherence to the cease-fire;

(c) The placing of all heavy weapons above 12.7 mm under UNPROFOR control or the withdrawal of those weapons to a minimum distance from the line of confrontation of 10 km for mortars and 29 km for tanks and artillery by noon local time on 7 March 1994;

(d) The establishment of a Joint Commission in which both parties will be represented under the chairmanship of UNPROFOR.

The Joint Commission will deal, inter alia, with: the opening of routes for humanitarian aid and UNPROFOR convoys; the opening of camps and release of prisoners; the unhindered and equitable distribution of humanitarian aid by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); and the restoration of utilities.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia, encouraged by the recent positive events in Sarajevo, is of the opinion that this accord provides a firm foundation for the establishment of mutually beneficial relations between Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims, as well as between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Croatia is of the view that the international community and, in particular, the Security Council should

exert their influence to promote the above-mentioned peace accord and ensure that its terms are fully implemented.

On behalf of the Government of Croatia, I wish to commend UNPROFOR for agreeing to position its troops along the confrontation lines between Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat forces in order to ensure adherence to the cease-fire. At the same time, I wish to reiterate the position of my Government that the Security Council should deploy UNPROFOR troops in such a way as to protect the Bosnian Croat population in central Bosnia - Vitez, Busovaca, the Kresevo-Kiseljak enclave and the Usora region.

In regard to allegations of the presence of regular Croatian Army troops on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I wish to bring your attention to the fact that on 22 February Yasushi Akashi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the former Yugoslavia, and Hrvoje Sarinic, Head of the office of the Republic of Croatia for cooperation with UNPROFOR, agreed to establish a joint commission of Croat and UNPROFOR officials to deal with this matter. The joint commission will examine whether the Republic of Croatia is complying with the terms of the Presidential statement of 3 February concerning the possible presence of regular Croatian troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I wish to reiterate that the letter dated 17 February 1994 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/1994/190) stated that "the ability of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to observe developments throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina is limited". Hopefully, the aforesaid joint commission, with its greater resources, will be able to determine the facts in a more conclusive manner.

Additionally, I wish to state that the Republic of Croatia fully supports the decision of HVO commanders, which was made at the above-mentioned meeting, to allow for unhindered inspection by the joint commission of its troops.

I hope that this commission will present a satisfactory report to the Security Council as soon as possible and that its conclusions will serve to promote better relations and trust between the Bosnian Croats and Muslims.

In this light, I wish to reiterate the support of my Government for the complete and effective control of the borders of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to prevent the infiltration of any foreign troops into that State.

I would be grateful if you would provide for the distribution of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Croatia
to the United Nations